

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action rejected claims 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GRAZIANO (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111698) in view of SEKIGUCHI (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0156899) and NISHI (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0055977 A1).

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 11-12 and 14-18 have been amended. New claims 19-20 have been added. Thus, claims 11-20 are currently pending for consideration by the Examiner.

With regard to independent 11 and 15, the Examiner acknowledges that GRAZIANO fails to explicitly disclose acquiring a current address of the remotely controlled device at constant time intervals. However, the Official Action asserts that SEKIGUCHI discloses this feature. Contrary to this assertion, Applicants submit that SEKIGUCHI also fails to disclose this feature. SEKIGUCHI's paragraphs [0059]-[0062] and [0067]-[0069] disclose that SEKIGUCHI's first system is periodically monitoring the second system to determine if the power of the second system is turned on. The IP address information of the second system is only provided to the first system when the power of the second system is turned on, which occurs at non-constant time intervals. Applicants submit that SEKIGUCHI's second system fails to provide current address information to the first system at constant time intervals.

The Official Action further asserts that NISHI discloses a remote control system wherein a remotely controlled device (electronic equipment 2) communicates at predetermined timing with a remote controller (remote control server 1), citing NISHI's paragraphs [0050]-[0051] and [0056]. The Official Action then concludes by asserting that since the remote control server 1 receives and transmits signals to and from the device at predetermined timing, that it will also

receive the current address of the device on the network, because in order to differentiate the device from the plurality of devices, remote control server 1 will need the device's address.

Applicants submit that while NISHI's remote control server may need the device's address, NISHI fails to explicitly disclose how the address is acquired or used in NISHI's process. Applicants also submit that NISHI fails to explicitly disclose the remote controller acquiring and storing the current changeable address of the remotely controlled device at constant uninterrupted time intervals, as explicitly recited in claims 11 and 15. Applicants further submit that the Official Action's asserted conclusion cited above is unsupported by any evidentiary foundation since the cited sections of NISHI fail to provide any relevant disclosure regarding how the addresses are acquired and used.

Nevertheless, in order to advance the prosecution of this application to allowance, Applicants have amended independent claim 11 and 15 to recite that the current changeable address of the remotely-controlled device on the network is received by the remotely-controlled device at constant uninterrupted time intervals. Amended claims 11 and 15 also recite that the remote controller associates the current changeable address of the remotely-controlled device with a fixed identification number of the remotely-controlled device that is stored in the address memory. Applicant submit that neither GRAZIANO, SEKIGUCHI, NISHI, nor any proper combination of these references, disclose, teach, or suggest at least this feature of claims 11 and 15.

For instance, in the rejection the Official Action points to NISHI's Figure 7 for disclosing the storage of a device's state information and address. NISHI's Figure 7, however, only discloses the storage of a device's state information and the name of the device. NISHI's Figure

7 fails to explicitly disclose the association of a device's current changeable address with a fixed identification number of the device that is stored in memory.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that amended claims 11 and 15 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of the combination of GRAZIANO, SEKIGUCHI, and NISHI. Applicants also submit that claims 12-14 and 19, which depend from independent claim 11, and claims 16-18 and 20, which depend from independent claim 15, are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above regarding claims 11 and 15, and further for the additional features recited therein.

For instance, new dependent claims 19 explicitly recites that the constant uninterrupted time intervals at which the remotely-controlled device sends the current changeable address through the network are different from the constant uninterrupted time intervals at which the first communication interface transmits the status notification request through the network. New dependent claim 20 recites similar features. Applicants submit that this feature is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the applied references.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of GRAZIANO, SEKIGUCHI, and NISHI be withdrawn, and that a notice of the allowability of claims 11-20 be issued in due course.

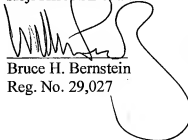
SUMMARY

From the amendments, arguments, and remarks provided above, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims in the present amendment are patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in any proper combination. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action is respectfully requested and an indication of the allowance of claims 11-20 is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejections is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
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